(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) An IMF Staff team is currently in India for Article IV Consultations, which are held on a regular basis with member-countries, as well as for discussion on possibilities of a further utilisation of IMF resources.

[Translation]

COOPERATIVE COTTON YARN MILLS IN MADHYA PRADESH

1358. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cooperative cotton yarn mills in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether these mills are able to meet the requirements of handloom and powerloom industry;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up new cotton yarn mill in cooperative sector; and

(d) if so, the number of new mills likely to be set up during the Eighth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Two Mills.

(b) Apart from these two mills, there are 1030 mills engaged in spinning activity in the country which are producing hank yarn and con yarn. Therefore requirement is being met of powerloom sector as well as of handloom sector through the production of all these mills put together.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal for setting up any new cotton yarn mill in the cooperative sector during the eighth five year plan. Now for such Mills licenses are not required as per new Industrial Policy.

[English]

RECONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 43 NEAR SALUR

1359. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the river bridge near Salur on National Highway No. 43 between Koraput and Visakhapatnam has been washed away by floods;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to reconstruct the bridge early to avoid inconvenience to the public;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir. This damaged bridge is located on the Unsuitable Link of NH 43 passing through Salur Town.

(b) to (d) As the collapsed bridge is situated on an Unsuitable NH Link, the State Government is responsible for its reconstruction.

CONTRACTS WITH FOREIGN COMPANIES

1360. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to honour the international contracts signed with foreign companies who have invested in India; and

(b) if not, under what circumstances the contracts will be altered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) Agreements for foreign collaboration, including foreign investment, are between Indian companies and the foreign companies investing in India. These agreements are governed by Indian Laws. Proposals for alteration are also considered on merits subject to the prevailing laws/ guidelines.

PRICE OF NATURAL RUBBER

1361. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in the price of natural rubber;